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EDITORIAL.

AT the close of the recent International Congress of Geologists in Switzerland an elaborate excursion was organized, as is well known, under the leadership of Dr. Albrecht Penck, of the University of Vienna, Dr. Eduard Brückner, of the University of Berne, and Dr. Léon Du Pasquier, of Neuchatel, the purpose of which was to inspect the most instructive sections of the glacial system of the Alps. The appointments are reported to have been most admirable and carried into execution with rare success. Very unusual opportunities were afforded for examining representative deposits and for comparisons of phenomena on both sides of the Alps. At the close a letter very significant of the impressions formed was addressed by the twenty-nine members of the party then present to Dr. James Geikie, reciting that as members of the Glacialists' Excursion they had studied the superposition of three successive glaciations and their interglacial deposits on both sides of the Alps, and desired to address their congratulations to the author of *The Great Ice Age* and to express their regret that he was unable to be one of their party and see for himself a series of exposures which would have had a very special interest for him. The signers embraced Albrecht Penck, Eduard Brückner, André Delebecque, Léon Du Pasquier, Hugh Robert Mill, London; Andr. M. Hansen, Christiania; K. Keilhack, Berlin; E. Zimmerman, Berlin; A. Jentsch, Königsberg; G. Berendt, Berlin; Dr. Greim, Darmstadt; Leo Wehrli, Zürich; Dr. Wahnschaffe, Berlin; A. W. Pavlow, Moscow; Willi Ule, Halle; Dr. Fritz Regel, Jena; A. P. Pavlow, Moscow; Aug. Aeppli, Zürich; F. Mülhberg, Aarau; E. Flournoy, Genève; J. Lorié, Utrecht; Immanuel Friedlaender, Berlin; A. Woeikof, St. Petersburg; Hav. Pfeiffer, Dugald Bell, Glasgow;

Adolf Forster, Wein; A. Schenck, Halle; Bernard Hobson, Manchester.

Dr. Geikie will give in the next number of the JOURNAL OF GEOLOGY a classification of European glacial deposits, in which he will propose a series of formational names analogous to those suggested by the present writer for the American formations in the sketch of these given in the last edition of *The Great Ice Age*.

T. C. C.

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AMERICAN geology has received a very gratifying testimonial of its appreciation abroad through the action of the Geological Society of London in conferring the Bigsby Medal upon Director Charles D. Walcott of the U. S. Geological Survey. It was the wish of Dr. Bigsby in providing for the medal that it should be awarded in "acknowledgment of eminent services in any department of geology, irrespective of the receiver's country," and that the recipient should not be older than forty-five years. This worthy recognition, designed to honor and encourage young and rising talent, coming so near the inauguration of his administrative service, will prove peculiarly auspicious and will strengthen the hands of the Director.

Congress has paid its compliments also to the new administration of the Survey in slightly increased appropriations. C.